

THE CHRISTIAN HERALD.

VOL. IV.] *Saturday, November 1, 1817.* [No. 6.

THE SYNOD OF NEW-YORK AND NEW-JERSEY,

Met in this City on the 23d, and closed their sessions on the 27th ultimo. The following Narrative of the state of Religion within the precincts of that Judicatory of the Presbyterian Church during the past year was read at their meeting for concert of prayer, on Saturday last and we trust will be perused with interest by all those who rejoice in the prosperity of Zion.

NARRATIVE, &c.

The Synod of New-York and New-Jersey, in presenting a succinct account of the state of religion within their bounds during the past year, have abundant reason to praise the Lord for the great things which he has done for the Churches under their care.

The prayers of his people, and the labours of his ministering servants, have not been in vain. Through the special and powerful influence of the Holy Spirit accompanying the means of grace, several Churches within the bounds of the Presbytery of Jersey have been visited with times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. A revival of the spirit of true piety has taken place in the 1st and 2d Churches of Newark, Elizabethtown, Orange, Connecticut-farms, Bloomfield, and Paterson. This great and good work commenced in the town of Newark, about the middle of December last.

In the 1st Church, the first public and decisive token of the Divine presence was given at an evening meeting for prayer. The number of those who have been hopefully brought into the knowledge of the truth, in this congregation, is about 200; 170 of whom have been received into communion.

A similar work of grace commenced in the 2d Church in Newark, about the period already mentioned; the fruit of which has been 97 added to the communion of the Church.

In Elizabethtown, a revival, more general than any which that congregation has ever before experienced, began to make its appearance about the 1st of February last. In this Church, 161 persons have already been received into communion, and many more are expected soon to follow their example.

The revival commenced also in the Church of Orange about the beginning of February, and continued to prevail, without any abatement of zeal, till the close of the month of June. The greatest number which appeared, at any time, to be deeply impressed, was from 250 to 300. Of this number nearly 200 entertain a hope that they have passed from death unto life, and 113 of them have been received into full communion.

In Connecticut-farms, also, the revival began about the same

82 *Narrative of the State of Religion within the bounds*

period. Thirty-six persons have already made a public profession of their faith, and more are yet expected to join the church, as the fruit of this gracious refreshing.

At Bloomfield, 37 have been added to the communion of the Church, and at Paterson, 20.

The character of the work, in all these Churches, is such as to warrant the hope that it is, indeed, of God; and it ought to be added, in answer to special prayer: and it is peculiarly gratifying to the Synod to state, that, in most of these places, the visits, prayers, and exhortations of some of the students from the Theological Seminary at Princeton have been blessed as the means of promoting it.

The Synod have also learnt, with deep interest, that there now exist very favourable appearances of a revival of religion commencing in the 2d Church at Woodbridge, and at Rockaway, within the bounds of the same Presbytery.

Nothing worthy of particular notice has taken place within the bounds of the Presbyteries of Long-Island, Hudson, New-York, and New-Brunswick. The Churches appear to be walking in the faith and order of the Gospel. In many of them religion is flourishing, whilst in some others it is somewhat declining.

The Synod, however, would observe, that in the congregations of Huntington, Fresh-Ponds, and Brookhaven, in the Presbytery of Long-Island, there is a more than ordinary attention to religion.

The Synod are happy to learn that a Female Missionary Society has been formed within the City of New-York, for the purpose of supplying the destitute of the City with the means of grace. The efforts of their Missionary appear to have been signally owned and blessed by the great Head of the Church. More than usual attention has also there been recently paid to seamen. A Marine Bible Society has been formed auxiliary to the American Bible Society, which promises to be an extensive blessing to this neglected and important class of men.

Agreeably to the recommendation of a late-General Assembly, classes have been formed in the greater part of our congregations for the purpose of studying and reciting the Bible. The young people composing these classes have in many instances made considerable progress in biblical history, and while they have increased in speculative knowledge, their hearts in some instances have also been deeply affected and warmed with love to God, and to the great truths he has revealed in his word. If this mode of instruction be persevered in, it may, by the blessing of heaven, be attended with the happiest effects. The Pastors of our Churches will, we hope, by and by see themselves surrounded by youth well instructed in the great principles of the Christian religion, strongly attached to the congregations of which they are members, the promoters of every thing that will tend to advance the interests of religion and morality—themselves the strength and glory of the Church.

The concert of prayer on the first Monday in every month has

been very generally attended to during the past year. In Europe, in some parts of Asia and Africa, as well as in our own land, the friends of Zion on that day approach the throne of grace, and unite in the same prayer, that the kingdom of God may speedily come. How encouraging and animating! If the Lord Jesus has promised to answer the prayer of a few only who unite in the same petition, have we not great reason to hope that the united prayers of thousands will be heard and answered. Christians, persevere in this delightful duty. 'For Zion's sake hold not your peace, and for Jerusalem's sake rest not, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.'

Societies for the gratuitous distribution of Religious Tracts have not been weary in well-doing. The New-York Religious Tract Society has issued from its depository, within 5 years, more than *three hundred thousand Tracts*. A great proportion of this number have been distributed gratuitously throughout almost every county in the State of New-York, in almost every State in the Union, at the Cape of Good Hope, Batavia and Canton, in several of the West-India Islands, in Canada, on board of steam-boats, and on board merchant vessels bound to various and distant parts of the world. In the city of Trenton, in New-Jersey, a Female Tract Society, formed not long since, has purchased and distributed within the past year, about 10,000 Tracts. Similar Societies have been formed in many other places within the bounds of the Synod.

The number of Sabbath Schools is constantly increasing. In our congregations in the country, as well as in our cities, these Institutions have been established, and almost universally are attended with good effects. In the city of New-York, the number of children attending the different Sabbath Schools, male and female, is about seven thousand five hundred; and it is an interesting fact, that in one of these Schools, within three months, 8 of the teachers out of 12 have made a public profession of religion: and similar beneficial effects to the teachers themselves, have in several instances been manifested in other schools within our bounds.

The Synod are gratified to learn that increased exertions have been made within their bounds, to instruct the people of colour, and that in some places these exertions have been specially crowned with a divine blessing. In several of the congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery of Jersey, which have been visited with special revivals, the people of colour have largely shared in the precious influence, and many have become hopefully the subjects of divine grace; and in Newark and Elizabeth-town, incipient measures have been taken to organize congregations of this people.

The Synod are also gratified to learn that liberal contributions have been made for the support of schools among the heathen.

The Synod in this place would take particular notice of the establishment of the African school under their care. From the re;

34. *Monthly Correspondence of the Br. and For. B. S.*

port of the Directors, it appears that two young men of promising talents are already in a course of education, and that a general attention begins to be awakened to that long neglected people. The Synod cannot but hope that the time is near when Ethiopia will indeed stretch forth her hands to God.

The American Bible Society, since its establishment, has issued 13,500 Bibles, and the number of its Auxiliary Societies is 110.

Among so many and such great things of a favourable kind, the Synod are pained to notice many grievous breaches of the Sabbath, by the travelling of persons from our large towns, particularly from the city of New-York into the country for their amusement, but to the great injury of the feelings of individual Christians and of the cause of Christ. It is devoutly to be wished that Moral Societies may be more vigilant and successful in the suppression of this great and alarming evil.

The Synod would exhort all who profess the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ, to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they are called—to let their light shine before men, that others, seeing their good works, may glorify their Father who is in heaven. Be sober, be vigilant, and fervent in spirit. The present period is distinguished from all others that have preceded it, by extraordinary exertions for the promotion of the interest of the Redeemer's kingdom in the world. Throughout Christendom the friends of Zion are awake. The majestic and important objects they have in view, are the best interests of men, and the glory of God. Let every heart and every hand unite in this glorious work—let them not relax in their exertions until all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God!

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

Our readers will be pleased to learn that the Committee of this Institution have determined to publish a sheet of extracts of their correspondence in the last week of every month. We are indebted to our attentive correspondent at Liverpool for the first Number of the Extracts for August. We have already anticipated a part of the intelligence which it furnishes, and shall insert the greater part of the remainder in the present Number of the *Christian Herald*. The following extract from their

ADDRESS TO AUXILIARY SOCIETIES,
will give a view of their plan:—

It appears to the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society to have become highly expedient, that a plan should be adopted for transmitting to the various Societies in connexion with the Parent Institution, more frequent communications than have heretofore been usual of the interesting intelligence from time to time received, relative to the progress of the great work in which their efforts are united. The Committee regard it, indeed,

3d Report of the Bombay Auxiliary Bible Society. 85

little less than an act of duty, to impart to the friends of the cause, in every part of the empire, a portion of those moral treasures which are continually flowing in from all quarters of the world; and to admit them to share, with as little delay as possible, in the enjoyment of those fruits, to the production of which their local exertions have so materially contributed.

But the Committee, in resorting to this plan, have an object beyond that of conveying satisfaction and delight. They are deeply sensible of the beneficial influence produced upon their own minds, by the communications from distant lands read to them at their periodical meetings, both in exciting their gratitude, and stimulating their exertions; and they are anxious to establish such means of intercourse as may enable them to extend, as widely as possible, these salutary impressions. Experience has taught them to believe, that, if Extracts from the most interesting parts of the Society's Correspondence were read in the meetings of the local Committees, and distributed among the members, for the information of others, it would tend greatly to enliven the spirit of those meetings, and to invigorate and expand the general zeal.

Under this conviction, the Committee have determined to issue, in the last week of every month, a sheet of brief extracts from their articles of Correspondence, with a view to their being read at the meetings of the Committees of the different Auxiliary and Branch Societies, and Bible Associations, and distributed among their Officers, Members of Committee, and gratuitous Collectors.

These Extracts will be transmitted to the Secretaries of the Auxiliary Societies, who are earnestly requested to forward, without delay, a due proportion of the present, and of all succeeding Numbers, to the Secretaries of the several Branch Societies and Associations within their respective districts, so as to ensure the receipt of them in time for the Meetings in each ensuing month.

The Committee anticipate much good from this measure, if their views are followed up by their friends in the country; and they trust they may reckon upon a diligent and punctual co-operation from the Auxiliary Societies, in giving it effect in the manner suggested.

*From the Third Report of the Bombay Auxiliary Bible Society,
September 13, 1816.*

The supplies of English Bibles and Testaments which the Committee have received, both from London and Calcutta, have enabled them to furnish, to some extent, the immediate demands of the Europeans.

The want of the Scriptures among the soldiers and the poorer British inhabitants under this government, is probably greater than has been suspected; seldom, perhaps, does a copy of the Bible accompany the British soldier amidst the hurry of embarkation from his native shores; and, after his arrival in this foreign land, where its holy precepts should be more peculiarly presented, to

36 *Bible intelligence from Colombo and Amboyna.*

counteract the gross vices and idolatry by which he is surrounded, an opportunity has seldom been afforded him of perusing it.

From the coasts of Malabar, the Bombay Bible Society has endeavoured to extend its influence to the distant shores of the Persian Gulph, and they have there distributed several Arabic Bibles, partly through the means of the British Resident at Bussorah.

A connexion seems thus to be immediately formed with the Parent Society in London ; who, by the numerous societies in Russia and Germany, in the Crimea, and even Georgia, by their correspondence at Constantinople, in parts of Asia Minor, and lastly with the British Resident at Bagdad, have established a connexion throughout the vast continent of Europe and Asia, from the banks of the Thames to the regions of the Ganges.

The copies of the Syriac Gospels forwarded to the Syrian Christians in Travancore, have proved a most acceptable gift to them. Three copies were presented to the Bishop, Mar Dionysius, and the Clergy with him at Kolyam ; and three were given to the British Resident, Colonel Munro, who has established at Kolyam a college for the education of the Catanars. The type and character of these Gospels are considered by them to be executed in the best manner ; and the Bishop and Catanars (or Clergy) expressed the most earnest desire to receive the whole of the Old and New Testament printed in the same manner : they have very few copies of the Scriptures among them.

From the Hon. Sir Alexander Johnston, Colombo, Sept. 25, 1816.

The assistance which the Bible Society in England has given the friends of Christianity in this island, has enabled the latter, as I have frequently written to you, to circulate the Scriptures among the people of the country in a manner which was never done before ; and I do attribute the unanimity with which all classes of nations have resolved to put an end to domestic slavery, to the effect which has been produced upon their minds and upon their feelings by those doctrines which are contained in the Scriptures, and which, from their simplicity, are intelligible by, and applicable to, every description of the human race, whether European or Asiatic.

From the Rev. J. Kam, Amboyna, Dec. 31, 1816.

Of the quantity of the Holy Scriptures which we had expected from Calcutta, only 400 copies of the Malay New Testament have been received, a small supply for upwards of 30,000 poor people, utterly destitute of the means of religious instruction : and it is a truth, that their desire to be in possession of the word of God is very great. As an instance of this, a Malay Bible was purchased here last month at a public sale, for forty-one Spanish dollars, upwards of 10*l.* sterling.

N. B. The British and Foreign Bible Society is preparing an edition of 5000 copies of the Malay Bible, and 10,000 extra New Testaments, for the use of the Moluccas. It should also be observed, that the Bible Society at Amboyna has already remitted to the Parent Institution nearly 1000*l.*

From His Majesty, the King of Prussia, to the Prussian Central Bible Society in Berlin, March 6, 1816.

The Brief View which on the 4th of this month you laid before me, of the result of your endeavours to promote the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures, has been highly gratifying to me, on account of the religious spirit with which this beneficial undertaking has been conducted and carried on, even in the most unfavourable times. Convinced that in it you will find your reward, and encouragement to proceed in your labours, nothing remains for me but hereby to assure you of my acknowledgment of it.

(Signed)

FREDERIC WILLIAM.

From the Rev. J. Palerson, Gothenberg, July 6, 1817.

The Gothenberg Juvenile Society has increased to 640 members, and has this year already raised 1064 rix dollars, banco. The Bibles and Testaments I brought for them, in various languages, for distribution among foreigners, were a welcome present. They see many pleasing effects of their labours. The Finnish New Testaments which they distributed some time ago among the soldiers of that nation in garrison, have produced much good. They are the only means of instruction which these poor men enjoy, and they peruse them diligently. Of this the following anecdote will afford a proof: the President of the Juvenile Society had occasion, as officiating chaplain for the garrison, to examine the Finnish soldiers previously to their receiving the communion. On approaching one of them, the officer said, "As to that fellow, it is vain to ask him any thing; he cannot read." But on inquiry, it was found that he could read, and read well. Astonished at this discovery, the officer demanded to know how he had acquired this talent all at once; when it appeared, that the receipt of a New Testament had inspired him with so strong a desire to know what it contained, that he set about learning to read; a task which he accomplished in the course of two months.

EXTRACTS

From the Twenty-Third Report of the London Missionary Society.

Continued from page 73.

LASCARS AND CHINESE IN LONDON.

The Mahomedans, in West-Ham Baracks, accepted with delight the scripture Tracts presented to them; and which being printed in the Arabic Character, excited peculiar attention. A room at the depôt, occupied by Portuguese Lascars, was supplied with Testaments. Some instances have occurred of Lascars, who having, when here before, received religious instruction, on their return to England from a fresh voyage, applied to the Committee, earnestly solicited Copies of the Scriptures, with which they were enabled to supply them, having received fifty Copies of the Portuguese New Testament from the British and Foreign Bible Society. The Committee, on the whole, feel encouraged, by perceiving that their efforts in behalf of these strangers have been productive of real advantage.

SEMINARY.

The directors are convinced that it is their duty to exercise the most deliberate and cautious discrimination in the choice of those who are to be their active instruments in carrying on the grand designs of the society; and on whose piety, talents, and diligence, must depend, under God, the efficiency and success of its operations. There are at present in the Seminary at Gosport, twenty Students, respecting whose religious character, missionary spirit, promising abilities, and correct deportment, a report highly favourable and satisfactory has been made, both by the Rev. David Bogue, under whose tuition they are placed; and also by a deputation from the directors, who recently visited the Seminary, and examined the Students individually.

FUNDS.

The expenditure of the Society amounted, in the last year, to nearly NINETEEN THOUSAND POUNDS; but the contributions have been more than equal to the expenditure.

The directors express their obligations to Ministers, Congregations, Auxiliary Societies, Female Friends, and Juvenile Societies; among the members of which last bodies they descry the future Subscribers, Directors, and Missionaries of the Society, who will far exceed, they hope, both in their efforts and their success, the present generation.

INTENDED MISSIONS.

Having laid before the Society a brief account of the proceedings of the Directors during the past year, and a compendium of the information received from their Missionaries, it is proper to state what are the objects immediately in view, and which they trust that the Board of Directors for the following year will be enabled to accomplish.

The Mission to Madagascar, which has been so long in view, they have not been able to commence, although more than ever inclined thereto, by the strong recommendation and friendly promises of the Governor Farquhar, of the Mauritius. That gentleman has diligently collected the memoirs of the former Catholic Missionaries, in order that the future labourers may derive instruction from their failure; he has procured the itineraries of intelligent travellers to every part of that island: he has corresponded with the Chiefs who may be able to forward the object; and has collated, and reduced into the form of a Dictionary, a great number of words of the language of that country, which is now become a portion of the British Empire. Such is the encouragement that our society possesses for an attempt to evangelize the vast island of Madagascar; and the directors trust, that, in the course of the present year that attempt will be made.

Another great object which has engaged their attention, is the commencement of a mission to the Mongul Tartars, at Irkutsk, in Siberia. Mr. Paterson and Mr. Pinkerton have earnestly recommended a mission to Irkutsk. Mr. Stallybrass, a student of Homer-ton College, has devoted himself to the work, and is on the point

of proceeding to St. Petersburg, where he will reside a few months, for the purpose of acquiring the Russian Language, and then proceed to the place of his destination. The Directors are now anxiously engaged in selecting a proper person to follow Mr. Stallybrass, and to unite with him in the arduous undertaking; and they are happy in the prospect of obtaining from the Government of Russia every desirable facility in the progress of the work.

MISSIONARIES OF THE YEAR.

In the course of the past year, a very considerable number of Missionaries has been sent forth to different parts of the world: Mr. Pearson, to Chinsurah; Mr. Medhurst and Mr. Slater, to Malacca; Mr. Lowndes, to Malta; Messrs. Taylor, Kitchingham, Evan Evans, Brownlee, and Moffat, to different Stations in Africa; Messrs. Bourne, Darling, Platt, and Williams, to Otaheite; Mr. Smith, to Demerara; Mr. Donaldson, to Surat; Mr. Stallybrass, about to sail for Irkutsk; and Mr. Gyles, with his family, for Otaheite—in all seventeen; twelve of whom are accompanied by their wives.

CONCLUSION.

The sum of 200*l.* has been granted to the Basle Missionary Seminary. After noticing the establishment of a similar Institution at Amsterdam, the plans of the Netherland Society for the Dutch possessions in the East, and the increase of Missionary zeal in America, the Report adds:—

It must afford delight to witness the growing zeal of the various societies of British Christians—the Moravian, the Baptist, the Wesleyan, and the Church Missionary Societies—all animated by the same spirit, and, in their several connexions, striving together for the faith of the Gospel. The world is a vast field, wherein ten thousand labourers are wanted, and in which all may exert their utmost energies without giving the least occasion for envy or interference. Our combined efforts, however, with the blessing of God, will, we trust, in a few years, produce a wonderful change on the face of the Moral World.

The Directors hope that the statement now laid before you will afford satisfaction and pleasure; that it will appear to you that the Society is making a gradual progress in the great work of evangelizing the Heathen; that the Islands of the Southern Ocean are waiting for the Law that went forth from Sion; that the light of Truth begins to penetrate the thick clouds of darkness, and to expose the abomination of Idolatry and superstition in India and China; and that in Africa, especially, the glory of divine grace is rendered illustrious, in the conversion of multitudes of the sable sons of Ham, relieving them from the curse of Canaan, and making them partakers of the blessings of Abraham.

Now unto Him who has favoured us with the rich privileges of his glorious Gospel, and who honours us as instruments of conveying them to others—to him be glory in all the Churches confederated in the Missionary cause! Amen, and Amen!

AFRICA.

Extract from Travels in the Interior of Africa, by Mungo Parke.

"Although the negroes in general have a very great idea of the wealth and power of the Europeans, I am afraid that the Mahometan converts among them think but very lightly of our superior attainments in religious knowledge. The white traders in the maritime districts take no pains to counteract this unhappy prejudice; always performing their own devotions in secret, and seldom condescending to converse with the negroes in a friendly and instructive manner. To me, therefore, it was not so much a subject of wonder as matter of regret, to observe, that while the superstition of Mahomet has in this manner scattered a few faint beams of learning among these poor people, the *precious light of Christianity is altogether excluded*. I could not but lament, that although the coast of Africa has now been known and frequented by the Europeans for more than two hundred years, yet the *negroes still remain entire strangers to the doctrines of our holy religion*. We are anxious to draw from obscurity the opinions and records of antiquity, the beauties of Arabian and Asiatic literature, &c. But while our libraries are thus stored with the learning of various countries, we distribute with a parsimonious hand the blessing of religious truth to the benighted nations of the earth. The natives of Asia derive but little advantage in this respect from an intercourse with us; and even the poor Africans, whom we affect to consider as barbarians, look upon us, I fear, as little better than a race of formidable but ignorant heathen.

"Perhaps a short and easy introduction to Christianity, such as is found in some of the catechisms for children, elegantly printed in Arabic, and distributed in different parts of the coast, might have a wonderful effect; the expense would be but trifling; curiosity would induce many to read it; and the evident superiority which it would possess over their present manuscripts, both in point of elegance and cheapness, might, at least, obtain it a place among the school books of Africa.

"The reflections which I have thus ventured to submit to my readers on this important subject, naturally suggested themselves to my mind on perceiving the encouragement which was there given to learning (such as it was) in many parts of Africa. I have observed that the pupils at Karmalia were most of them the children of Pagans; their parents, therefore, would have no predilection for the doctrines of Mahomet. Their aim was their children's improvement; and if a more enlightened system had presented itself, it would probably have been preferred."

A number of gentlemen in Claremont, (N. H.) assembled on the 29th ult. and organized a Society for the religious education of an orphan child, under the care of the American Missionaries in Asia. The Rev. Stephen Farley was chosen President, and Mr. D. Parmelee, Treasurer.

FROM NATCHEZ.

*Extract of a letter to the Editor of the Recorder, dated Natchez,
Sept. 10, 1817.*

DEAR SIR,

Our school continues to flourish, and we have the satisfaction of thinking that our labours are not in vain. Three of our pupils have become hopefully pious. One of these the Lord has called home to himself: her death was made the means of awakening one of the others, and the third was awakened by the reading of those little silent messengers of truth which the New England Tract Society has successfully sent abroad in such numbers. If the members of that Society fully realized the importance of their own exertions, and knew the extent of good they have already done, I firmly believe that to a man they would double their subscriptions, and that too without diminishing their contributions to other benevolent objects. Suppose that only this single soul had been prepared for heaven by their Tracts, what an unspeakable good has been effected! Can money be any counterpoise to the value of an immortal? Shall the world itself be laid in the balance—or ten thousand worlds—one soul infinitely more than outweighs them all!

If I seem too “zealously affected” you will forgive me. How can I feel otherwise when I see precious souls coming to Zion from this region of comparative darkness—and when these converts are my own dear pupils? What were the particular means of awakening the first I do not know—perhaps the Tracts; she was a constant reader of them. Her religious impressions were not discovered till she was brought to her death-bed. For some time before she was fond of retirement and religious reading—but some circumstances led her to stifle her feelings till she could do it no longer. We have no reason to doubt that she died in the Lord.

One year ago there was no church of any kind at Natchez; now there are three—the Methodist, the Baptist, and our own. Ours consists of 20 members. The exact number of members in the others I cannot give; their condition however I believe is prosperous, and we are glad of their assistance. In the whole state we have but five Presbyterian preachers. I hope we shall be remembered by our brethren in New England.

A Tract Society has been formed in our School. While we were deliberating on the best method of getting Tracts into circulation, and regarded the difficulties in our way as almost insurmountable, our young ladies of their own accord, and without our knowledge, formed themselves into a society for the purpose. We had not even dared to suggest the thing to them, lest the hint should prove premature, and defeat our wishes. Thus the Lord relieved us from our perplexities, and showed us that he could work without us. The Society is wholly confined to our School, and in their first quarterly subscription they have raised nearly 30 dollars. ‘Not unto us, not unto us, but unto thy name, O Lord, be the glory.’ I remain in the hope of the Gospel,

Yours, &c.

R. PEARCE.

32 1st Report of the Southern Auxiliary Bible Society

REMARK.—Natchez, the principal town of Mississippi Territory, is evidently undergoing a revolution. Its moral character is rapidly changing. Its infidelity is bending under the strong arm of truth, and its corruptions are shrinking away before the light of evangelical religion. It is to form the central point, we trust, whence the blessings of the Gospel are to diverge and gladden its great surrounding regions. Who are God's instruments in this good work? Bible, Missionary, and Tract Societies. Is it then filching from the pockets of our neighbours, to persuade them to aid those societies? Is there any danger of our giving too much? Shall we be afraid of doing too much good?

EXTRACTS

From the first Annual Report of the Committee of the Southern Auxiliary Bible Society, December 25th, 1816.*

Suitable measures were taken to obtain from the Georgia Bible Society a competent supply of Bibles.—Four hundred and forty six copies have been received, of which nearly the whole are distributed.

In the distribution of these the committee have had the satisfaction to find that their efforts have not been in vain. The scriptures have been received with expressions of gratitude, and in many instances sought after with a degree of eagerness, which gives us reason to hope, that valuable effects will hereafter appear from the careful perusal of them. Within our reach, many are still destitute who call for our aid. Few copies of the scriptures have yet been distributed beyond the limits of Liberty, Bryan and McIntosh counties. As opportunity occurred, a small number have been sent into Glynn and Wayne, a few into Tatnall, and two or three into the Indian nation. Among the Indians, we are informed, that these copies have been thankfully received, and we cannot but hope, that in process of time, they may be the means of much good to that people.

The amount of contributions received, is \$1295, of which \$1048 50 cents have been paid to the Treasurer of the Georgia Bible Society—sundry expenses, 26 dollars—balance in the hands of the treasurer, 220 dolls. 50 cts.

We hail the present as an age of Bibles; as an era of increasing light throughout the world. Bible associations are formed in almost every part of Christendom upon the same principles, pursuing the same ends, animated by the same spirit, and rejoicing in the manifest blessing of God upon their efforts. A great work is progressing, in which princes and peasants, the rich and the poor, are happily united. The mite of the widow is not despised: the thousands of the wealthy are not vainly or lavishly contributed.

The labours already undergone, and the millions already spent, have taught the friends of humanity and religion, not only that their hopes will be realized, but that the state of the world, and the various openings of providence for the promotion of the gos-

* Auxiliary to the Georgia B. S.

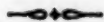
pel, call for persevering and increasing efforts. Over a great portion of the earth a dark cloud still hangs, which has never been pierced by the beams of the sun of righteousness; millions worship the works of their own hands, and know nothing of the Saviour, the God of Israel. But it is not unreasonable to hope and wish for the universal prevalence of Christianity; and perhaps for this purpose no measure is more promising than the universal diffusion of the sacred word. The light of truth must expose the deformity of error. The Bible in the hands of the followers of Mahomet, Confucius, or Bramah, will, we trust, by the grace of God, convince them of sin and bring them to Christ the only Redeemer.—Such has already been the case, and hence we take encouragement, and look forward with confidence to the future triumphs of the truth.

He with whom the day of small things is not despised, has smiled upon our humble efforts in this good cause. But much remains for us to do. Some within our immediate reach call for our aid. These we must supply. But shall our concern go no further? From our connexion with the Georgia Bible Society, which is now an Auxiliary to the American Bible Society, to which its surplus funds are sent, we perceive not only an opportunity of being liberal, but also a strong obligation to contribute our full proportion to the support of that important national establishment. Like the British and Foreign Bible Society, we hope the parent institution in our country, will extend its influence even to distant lands, and command the blessings of many that are ready to perish, or ardently longing for the word of life. While, therefore, we love the souls of men, let our zeal continue without abatement. It is the house of God that we are seeking to rear; it is the kingdom of Satan that we wish to see destroyed; it is the happiness of immortal souls that we are endeavouring to secure. The work is arduous; but its importance can never be lessened, and christian charity can never be exercised in a more interesting design. The lukewarm and unbelieving, who withhold their aid, will themselves be the greatest losers. The conscientious and liberal donor shall find his reward. The approbation of God and the salvation of souls is of more value than gold. Let us therefore imitate him who "though he was rich, for our sakes became poor," remembering "that he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

WM. M'WHIR, *President,*

THOMAS S. WINN, *Secretary.*

Medway, July 9th, 1817.



Departure of the Missionaries.—The Rev. Allen Graves and John Nichols, Missionaries, with their ladies, and Miss Philomela Thurston, sailed from Boston for Bombay on Sunday 7th ult. in the ship Saco.

Recorder.

[OBITUARY.]

Died, on Friday morning, the 3d Oct. the Rev. ROBERT FINLEY, D. D. President of the University of Georgia, after a painful illness of eighteen days. His sickness, which was of the most violent bilious character, he unfortunately contracted during a tour through several of the lower counties, on professional business, in August; he returned home with the fatal indisposition which has imposed so distressing a wound upon all the relations of society.

Whether we consider the death of this truly pious man, in a private or public view, the causes of regret multiply upon us, with such successive and increasing rigour, as to overwhelm the mind with the most bitter feelings of anguish. He has left an amiable wife and nine children to mourn his afflictive loss. This family have recently been brought from the bosom of their friends and relations, and by the melancholy dissolution of its head are now cast upon the land of strangers. Connected with the fortunes of the lamented deceased, they have forsaken some of the dearest ties which can arise from the love of a Country, the early scenes of nativity, or the loveliest sympathies of feeling.—United with him, whose whole energy of soul was bent to the accomplishment of an all important service to this State, they, by the separation occasioned by this awful dispensation, are now left friendless and unprotected upon the gratitude of that state.

In the Institution, which he had so lately been called to preside over, he commenced the duties of his office with such a prompt and ardent zeal, so unwearied in his exertions and so constant in his devoted care of all its concerns, as afforded the most certain promise of success, and the no less gratifying assurance that, under his administration, it was about to lift its languishing head. To the deep regret of his country, he has left it once more to the dubious issue of wayward contingencies.

In contemplating the private course of Dr. Finley, the mind has a field to rest upon, lovely in prospect, unbroken in surface, and endless in variety. If the most fervent and durable piety can give dignity and respect to character; if equanimity of temper, steady firmness of principle, and the most unbending rectitude of conduct, can secure to pure and worthy motives their merited esteem—if the most inflexible benevolence of heart, constantly directed to the advancement of charitable institutions, the relief of misfortune, the diffusion of happiness, and the increase of pious contentment, has not lost its influence upon human actions, the life and death of this good man must offer an example full of peace and consolation to his family, comfort and resignation to his friends, and the most lasting usefulness to society.

The Church has sustained a loss of one of its firmest pillars. In all the pursuits of his life, those ceased to be objects of interest, when they ceased to subserve the purposes of religion. To a mind warmed and animated by those hopes which devotion contemplates shall survive the stroke of death, he joined the soundest dictates

of sober reflection, the cool and unshaken possession of judgment, and the open and reconciling stamp of sincerity. From the pulpit he was accustomed to utter, graced with the beauty and armed with the energy of the most impressive eloquence, those eternal truths, which, while they stand on the "rock of ages," were winged with irresistible effect when delivered from his masterly and affecting management, and never failed to dignify the heart, elevate the affections, and heighten those dread expectations which rest in such mysterious wonder beyond the limits of time.

Georgia Journal.

Recent communications from Athens enable us to add a few interesting particulars relating to the subject of this obituary memoir.

Dr. Finley spent the whole of the month of August on a tour through the lower counties of the state of Georgia, in order to visit the academies and collect funds for the library of the college. The indefatigable zeal and fidelity with which that excellent man was in the habit of prosecuting every enterprize which his ardent love to God and man prompted him to undertake, added to the unhealthy state of the country through which he had to pass, had exhausted his strength, and laid the foundation of the disease which terminated his mortal course. On his return to Athens, the duties of his station, claiming incessant attention, left him no chance of immediately recovering from the excessive fatigue and bodily indisposition which his late tour had occasioned. In a few days after his return, he was again urged to visit a neighbouring congregation, lately formed, about 17 miles distant, for the purpose of administering the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to a destitute people, who had been long waiting for his arrival for the celebration of that solemn ordinance, and were very anxious that he should go and feed their hungry and thirsty souls, and break to them the bread of life. Some of them had heard with joy from his lips the unsearchable riches of Christ; and a large collection of people was about to assemble from distant parts of the country to partake in or to witness the sacred ordinance about to be solemnized. Though the flesh seemed unequal to the task of engaging, without assistance, in the execution of the fatiguing duties which the occasion called on him to fulfil, both in the preparatory exercises and in those of the celebration of the Supper, yet his zeal for the cause of his Master, and the great prospect of usefulness before him, raised his spirits so much above attention to the state of his bodily frame as to overcome all objections; and, under a conviction of duty, he went and preached on the two

98 *Formation of a Colonization Society in New-York.*

days preceding the Sabbath, and on that day administered the Sacrament. At the close of the service he had scarcely strength enough left to return to his home, when he was stretched on a bed of languishment, which finally put an end to his labours on earth. Those labours had been formerly blessed in an eminent degree in other places where he had been employed in his Master's service. It appears that, in the new field where he had been lately called to work, visible fruits are already manifest to the praise of God's glorious grace; and it is confidently hoped that the last fulfilment of his ministerial duties have been instrumental in gathering some perishing souls into the fold of the Redeemer, who shall be to him crowns of rejoicing in the day of the Lord. His zealous exertions, it is trusted, have kindled a holy fire in that region, which may not be soon extinguished. He was truly a light set on a hill: it shone before men in such a manner as that others, seeing his good works, might glorify their Father in heaven. That light, as one has aptly remarked, seemed, like the expiring taper, to emit a brighter ray just as it was going out. Of this faithful servant of the Lord Jesus, we may say with confidence, that, in humble imitation of the great apostle, he has 'fought a good fight, he has finished his course;' and we trust he has gone to receive a crown of life, which is reserved for them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

NEW-YORK COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

On Wednesday evening, agreeably to public notice, a number of citizens assembled at the City Hall, to consider the expediency of forming a Society in this city, with a view to co-operate with our fellow citizens in other parts of the Union in the contemplated attempt to colonize the free people of colour inhabiting this country.

After considerable discussion on the merits of the question it was finally decided that it was expedient to form such an Institution.

A Constitution was then framed, and adopted. It is in substance as follows:

The Society is designated THE NEW-YORK AUXILIARY COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

Its object is to aid the Parent Society at Washington instituted for the purpose of Colonizing the free people of colour of the United States.

Its concerns are to be conducted by a Board of Directors consisting of a President, four Vice Presidents, a Corresponding and a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer and twelve Managers; of whom 5 are a quorum.

The payment of one Dollar annually constitutes a member; and of 30 Dolls. at one time a member for life. The annual meetings of the Society are to be held on the last Wednesday in October, at 4 o'clock, P. M.